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FAC News to Use

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FAC Spotlight What a Way to "Run" in the New Year!

DOR's Rob Carter Competes in Houston Half Marathon

Ring in the new year can mean lots of different things to lots of different people. Some may even decide to ring in the new year in interesting ways, as did the Department of Revenue's Rob Carter.

Carter celebrated the new year in an extended way—13.1 miles to be exact on Jan. 19. He, along with 12,500 other runners, competed in the 12th annual Houston Aramco Half Marathon. The half marathon is run in conjunction with the Chevron Full Marathon, which began in 1972.



Carter is proud of his finish, coming in 4th out of 437 in his age group, 50-54, and placing 191st overall with a finish time of 1:31:58. That put him in the top 1.5 percent of all the runners in this year's half marathon.

With family in Houston, 13 years ago Rob decided to run in the Houston full marathon. He's run the full marathon nine times, with his personal best time of 3:13 the year he turned 50, and the half marathon four times including this year's impressive finish.

According to Carter, his young age of 54 puts him at a slight disadvantage within the 50-54 age bracket. So, with age comes wisdom...

and speed? Most definitely a competitive streak!

"I started running in 2001 as I made a conscious decision to start and maintain a healthy lifestyle," said Carter. "I've run 14 marathons since my first one in 2003, including running the Boston in 2006."

What Carter doesn't always tell people is that he ran the Boston marathon just 30 days after an appendectomy and still ran an impressive 3:49 in spite of not having run for 30 days.

Becoming healthier and wanting to lose a few pounds prompted Carter to start running. He's become an avid runner, usually running about 45-55 miles per week. When training for a marathon he occasionally ramps his training up to more than 100 miles per week for several weeks in preparation for the race.

He runs races throughout the year and has recently grown to enjoy the half marathon best, running his fastest time ever in 2013—1:27 (6:39 pace for 13.1 miles). He ran five half marathons in 2013 and plans to run six in 2014 along with several 5K and 10K races.

Carter enjoys traveling the country with like-minded running friends and visiting new places. With as many as 20 races a year, he's met lots of people and even become familiar with lots of names and faces with whom he competes at each race.

He loves meeting new people. In each race he runs, one of his goals is to help someone else achieve a goal or to push beyond what they think they can do.

"I will usually have met someone at a prior race and encourage them to run a more strategic pace and even hang with me if they've never run that fast before....and often with a little encouragement and enticing, they will soon be beating me!!!"

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*Life is Good...
And Bright!*

It's certainly not difficult to pick Rob out in a pack of runners as he always goes for bright colors—especially **hyper orange** and **fluorescent yellow**.

Kudos to Dept. of Revenue

Work on Governor's Tax Reform Package Key

On Monday, Gov. Beshear unveiled his tax reform proposal.



To get to that moment, many Department of Revenue staff spent several weeks and countless hours analyzing many different scenarios and how they could potentially impact revenue collections for the Commonwealth.

"Gary Morris and Richard Dobson have been Revenue's point people on this effort," said DOR commissioner Tom Miller. "This has been a huge undertaking and I applaud Gary and Richard for their leadership. I also want to thank everyone who has worked closely with them."

"I too want to thank everyone in the Department of Revenue who has been involved in gathering data and information on the specific tax changes that were under consideration," said Secretary Flanery. "The willingness of everyone to go above and beyond their regular workload once again demonstrates their dedication to a job well done."

Last year many Department of Revenue staff were involved with the Governor's Blue Ribbon Tax Commission. Information from the commission's report and other data has been included in this tax reform package.

The General Assembly is expected to begin discussions on tax reform within the next several weeks.

Free and Clear

Planning, coordination & dedicated employees make for smooth snow, ice removal

It's already been a long cold winter and according to groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, we have about six weeks more to go. While the snow and ice may make for a beautiful photo (see photo at right), all that wintry mix means the Landscape and Building Operations Branches have been on call and in overdrive mode to make sure parking lots, sidewalks and stairs are clear.

While many of us are still tucked in our warm toasty beds, the dedicated crews are out around 4:30 in the morning (for a "light event") to scrape, shovel, blow and de-ice with some key buildings being cleared 24/7.

"The goal is that every state facility will be cleared by 7 a.m. for their opening," said Garth Vinson, Landscape Branch manager. "The Landscape Branch maintains the drives, parking areas and perimeter sidewalks of all Finance Cabinet owned buildings (approximately 40) while Building Operations Branch personnel clear snow from the door to the perimeter walk."



Thanks to Marcia Adams, Office of Financial Management, for sharing *Capitol Chill*.

"I've received numerous compliments about what a great job our Facilities folks have done this winter to keep parking and walkway areas safe for people to get in and out of state buildings.

"I too thank each and every person who's worked to keep us free and clear of snow and ice this winter."

-Sec. Lori Flanery

Planning is essential. Believe it or not, at nearly the hottest time of year, the Landscape Branch gets together in August to discuss the upcoming snow season. A Snow Response Plan is drawn up to cover whatever contingencies the group thinks will be a concern and a "Snow Boss" is identified (this year it's Ryan Hix) who gets the fun job of coordinating activities of the various crews once inclement weather hits.

Employees are divided into groups of plow operators, sidewalk crews and salt truck operators. To improve efficiency in parking lot maintenance, separate trucks are used for plowing and salt distribution.

Crew training starts in early December. All plow operators drive their routes numerous times to familiarize themselves with any hazards such as manhole covers or bollards. Sidewalk crews receive training on equipment and get to walk their areas to identify hazards. All equipment is tested and prepared for use. All branch employees are on call throughout the winter season when conditions call for a greater than 50% chance of an event.

Every snow or ice event is unique and requires a slightly different approach. Air and surface temperatures, humidity, wind speed and direction, time of day and/or rate of precipitation—all play into which strategy is best.

In a normal Kentucky winter, most storms are light enough that salting the drives and walkways usually prevents or melts any ice. Because of this week's extended snow and ice, crews have been further divided with a day shift reporting at 5 a.m. and a second shift reporting at 4 p.m.

This huge undertaking is done primary with 11 full time employees and 18 temps. When needed crews can be augmented with Construction and Mechanical Maintenance Branch employees or contractors.

"This year has been particularly troublesome because of the timing of storms, which seem to hit right as people are coming to or leaving from work," said Vinson. "We are very fortunate to have these guys who are dedicated and remarkably hard working."

Carter, From Pg. 1

Every Saturday morning, barring lightening or extreme ice, you'll find Rob running with a local Shelbyville group that has runners at all skill levels and ages.

"We welcome anyone to join us each Saturday," said Carter. "What's nice about running is to not only run with a fantastic 'support

group,' but also the fun time we have to socialize and swap running (or life) stories after we finish."

Carter retired from state government after 22 years in COT and Transportation. In 2012, he returned to work for the Office of Processing and Enforcement in DOR, providing software technical support to third party tax software preparers.